## Message Text

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: UNCTAD, EGEN

SUBJ: UN CONFERENCE ON A COMMON FUND: OPEC STATEMENT ON COMMON

**FUND** 

1. SUMMARY: MARCH 15 PLENARY SPEECH BY OPEC SPECIAL FUND DG SHITHATA WAS A CAUTIOUS STATEMENT OF THE POSSIBLE ROLE OF THE OPEC SPECIAL FUND IN ANY EVENTUAL COMMON FUND ARRANGEMENT. WHILE ENDORSING THE CONCEPT OF A CENTRAL FUNDING INSTITUTION, SHIHATA ARGUED THAT SUCH AN INSTITUTION SHOULD BE A UNIVERSAL ENDEAVOR, THAT ALL SERIOUS PROPOSALS FOR SUCH AN INSTITUTION SHOULD BE EXAMINED, THAT OPEC COUNTRIES DO NOT WANT TO BE TREATED AS A SEPARATE BLOCK BUT WILL CONTRIBUTE UNDER THE SAME AGREED FORMULA AS OTHER NATIONS, AND THAT THE FINANCIAL NEEDS OF AN INSTITUTION WOULD DEPEND ON THE ACTUAL EXISTENCE AND REQUIREMENTS OF ESTABLISHED COMMODITY ORGANIZATIONS. (MEYER IS HAD CARRYING TO WENDT, EB/ORF/ICD) END SUMMARY.

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2. SHIHATA EXPLAINED THAT OPEC SPECIAL FUND WOULD EVENTUALLY FINANCE OPEC MEMBER COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS ALTHOUGH COUNTRIES WOULD PARTICIPATE INDIVIDUALLY IN CF AND ACT WITHIN G-77 GROUP FRAMEWORK. HE LINKED OPEC SUPPORT TO CONCERN FOR COMMODITY PRICE STABILIZATION AT LEVELS WHICH GUARANTEE THE PREVENTION OF REAL PRICE EROSION AND WHICH BENEIFT THE DEVELOPING

COUNTRIES, AND NOT OTHER COMMODITY EXPORTERS OR THE MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS. WHILE ENDORSING UNCTAD PROPOSAL AS "SOUND BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION," HE SAID THAT OTHER PROPOSALS LEADING TO THE SAME OBJECTIVE COULD BE STUDIED "IN A CONSTRUCTIVE AND BUSINESSLIKE MANNER." THE PRESENT CONFERENCE, HE SAID, SHOULD REACH AGREEMENT AT LEAST ON THE BASIC PRINCIPLES.

3. CONTRIBUTIONS. NOTING THAT OPEC MEMBER COUNTRIES ACCOUNT FOR LESS THAN 3.5 PERCENT OF THE TRADE OF THE 18 UNCTAD COMMODITIES, HE ANNOUNCED THAT THEY EXPECT TO BE TREATED AS DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, PAYING THEIR SHARE OF AN AGREED FORMULA. HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT IN ADDITION TO OPEC SPECIAL FUND DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS COULD STILL BE MADE TO EASE THE BURDEN ON THE POOREST COUNTRIES, AND LOANS TO THE COMMON FUND MIGHT BE CONSIDERED IN FUTURE AS POSSIBLY A SOUND INVESTMENT OF LIQUID ASSETS UNDER SUCH TERMS AND CONDITIONS AS MAY BE AGREED UPON IN DUE COURSE WITH CF MANAGEMENT. HE DENIED PRESS REPORTS SUGGESTING THAT OPEC WOULD CONTRIBUTE SPECIAL AND SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNTS OF EQUITY CAPITAL AND LOANS.

4. SHIHATA SAID THE FUND'S FINANCIAL NEEDS WILL BE RELATED TO THE AVAILABILITY OF COMMODITY ORGANIZATIONS WITH THE POWER TO BORROW FROM AN INTERNATIONAL AGENCY, NOTING THAT ONLY TWO SUCH ORGANIZATIONS NOW EXIST. FURTHER,ITHE FUND'S FINANCIAL RESOURCES SHOULD OBVIOUSLY BE RELATED TO ITS OPERATIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEEDS, STARTING AT A LEVEL COMMENSURATE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF EXISTING COMMODITY ORGANIZATIONS, WHILE ALLOWING FOR FUTURE INCREASES AS NEW POTENTIAL BORROWERS.

5. THROUGHOUT STATEMENT, SHIHATA UNDERLINED RQUIREMENT THAT THE COMMON FUND BE FINANCIALLY SOUND, WITHOUT SO DIRECTLY STATING. SORENSON

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